

FD 547

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR) REPORT NO.  25X1

SUBJECT 1. Lighthouses along the Latvian Coast DATE DISTR. 9 October 1953

2. Sea Patrols and Guard Stations along the Latvian Coast NO. OF PAGES 5

25X1 DATE OF INFO.  REQUIREMENT NO.  25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED  REFERENCES

- 25X1 1. Mikelbaka lighthouse (N 57-37, E 21-58) shows the colors red, white, and green in group flashes of three. The length of the group flashes, the intervals between each flash, and the intervals between each group of flashes are not known.
2. Ovisi lightship is no longer in position, and the shoals are now marked with buoys. Ovisi lighthouse (N 57-34, E 21-44) is clearly distinguishable from the sea during the day. No other towers have been observed in this area, nor have any searchlights been observed. Fishing is permitted close to the shore and fishermen from Ventspils (N 57-24, E 21-34) frequently visit these fishing grounds. There are no restrictions on fishermen who fish close to the shore between Ovisi (N 57-32, E 21-43) and Ventspils, and patrol vessels have not been observed along this stretch of the coast.
3. A patrol vessel, either a BO or an MO, can always be encountered at night approximately three miles off Ventspils. This patrol vessel does not show any navigation lights, but turns on its searchlight when another vessel is encountered. A watchtower has been observed approximately six kilometers south of Ventspils. Fishermen are not permitted to approach the coast off Uzava (N 57-14, E 21-26) any closer than five miles; otherwise, they are warned that they will be fired upon. As far as is known, other stretches of the coast south of Ventspils may be approached at closer range.
4. The border guard detachment stationed at Pavilosta (N 57-53, E 21-01) has an MTB or sometimes an MO vessel at its disposal. This vessel remains in Pavilosta during the day, but leaves port at dusk; it patrols the sea off Pavilosta all night, returning to port in the morning. This vessel patrols at night without showing navigation lights.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#".)

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5. A border guard detachment is stationed at Akmenrags lighthouse (N 56-50, 21-03). The living quarters for the guards are in barracks at the foot of the lighthouse. At night, a BO, or sometimes an MO, vessel is stationed approximately one mile off Akmenrags lighthouse. This vessel sweeps its searchlight over the sea area at intervals of approximately five minutes. No patrol vessel has been observed during the day. Akmenrags lighthouse, just as all other lighthouses in the Latvian SSR, was taken over by the Soviet Army during 1950-1951. Now all lighthouses are under the administration of the Army. The coast between Akmenrags lighthouse and Lepaya (N 56-31, E 21-01) may be approached at close range by fishing vessels, and there are normally no restrictions.
- [REDACTED]

6. A vessel of the BO or MO type patrols at night approximately one mile off Saraika, which is approximately 15 kilometers north of Lepaya. This vessel does not show any navigation lights, but sweeps the sea area with its searchlight at intervals of approximately five minutes.
7. There are artillery emplacements approximately three kilometers north of the Lepaya Naval Harbor. Practice shooting has not been observed during the day. At night, practice shooting is conducted at target-rafts, which are pulled along at approximately one-and-a-half to two miles off shore. The rafts are illuminated by a searchlight from a vessel which follows at some distance behind.
8. There are approximately 20 to 30, one-story wooden barracks located about three-and-a-half kilometers south of the South Mole at Lepaya; they are opposite the former Jewish cemetery on the west side of the coastal road. These barracks appear to be occupied by a transport unit; there are many trucks and other vehicles parked behind the barracks.
9. There are what appear to be radio masts, as well as trucks and trailers with masts, about four kilometers south of the South Mole at Lepaya. They are visible from the coastal road. See Sketch No. 2.
10. The former fortress, which is 4.3 kilometers south of the South Mole at Lepaya, is now used as a naval warehouse, and is guarded by naval sentries.<sup>1</sup>
11. There is a stone observation tower located about 3.9 kilometers south of the South Mole at Lepaya. The tower is approximately 10 to 12 meters high and is about three meters wide. It has an observation slit, which faces the sea, and it is thought that a machine gun could be fired through this slit. The date of the construction of the tower is not known, but it has been built since 1950. See Sketch No. 3.
12. There is a border guard unit stationed at Bernate (N 56-23, E 20-59). The unit occupies the former holiday bungalows. No searchlights have been observed in this area.
13. There is a fishing station located approximately one kilometer north of Jurmalciems (N 56-19, E 20-59). This is one of the few places along the coast from which fishermen are permitted to fish.
14. There is a border guard unit stationed in Papesciems (N 56-10, E 21-02); the size of the unit and its activities are not known.

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Legend to Sketch No. 1

1. Radio mast, approximately 10 to 15 meters high.
2. Radio mast, approximately 10 to 15 meters high.
3. Radio mast, approximately 10 to 15 meters high.
4. Radio mast, approximately 10 to 15 meters high.
5. Area in which five or six trucks and trailers are parked.  
There may be more in this area, but only five or six can be seen from the road.
6. Barbed wire fence, surrounding the area to the north and east.
7. A moat.
8. Former fortress.<sup>1</sup>
9. Cemetery
10. Allotments (sic).
11. Observation tower, approximately 15 meters high.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment [REDACTED] this old fort  
 25X1 was a naval ammunition store. [REDACTED]  
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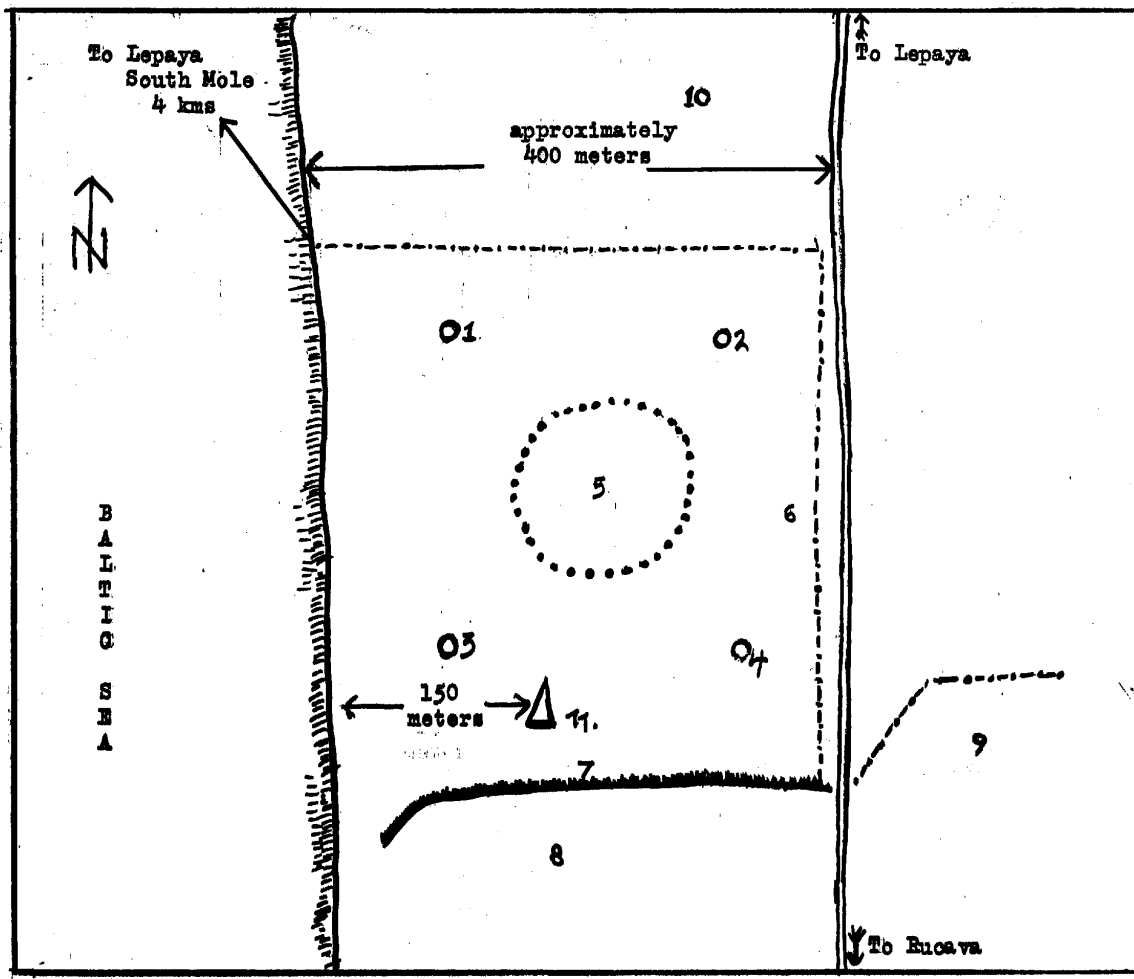
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Sketch No. 1: Location of Radio Masts



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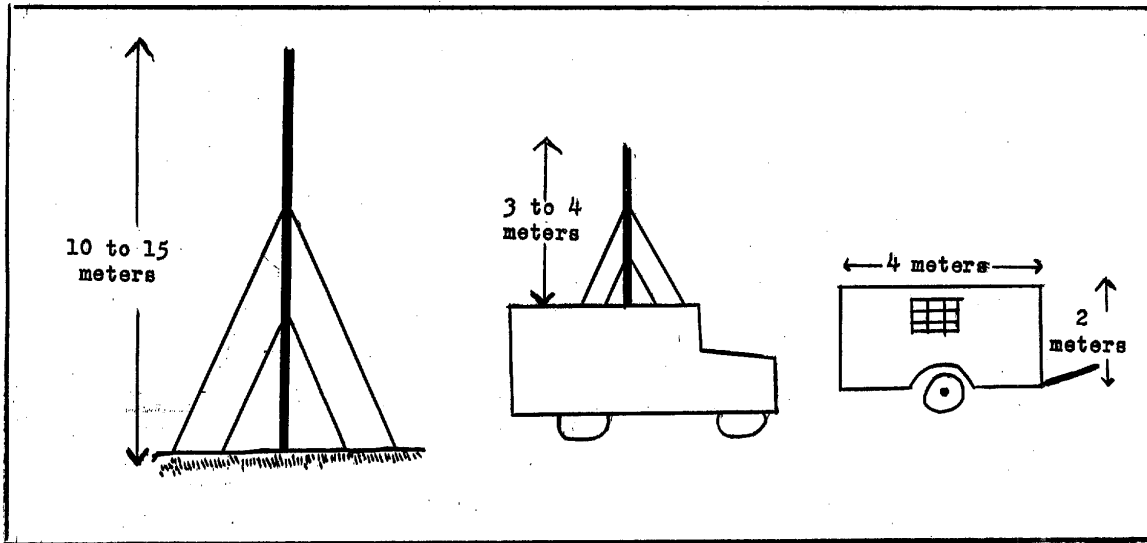
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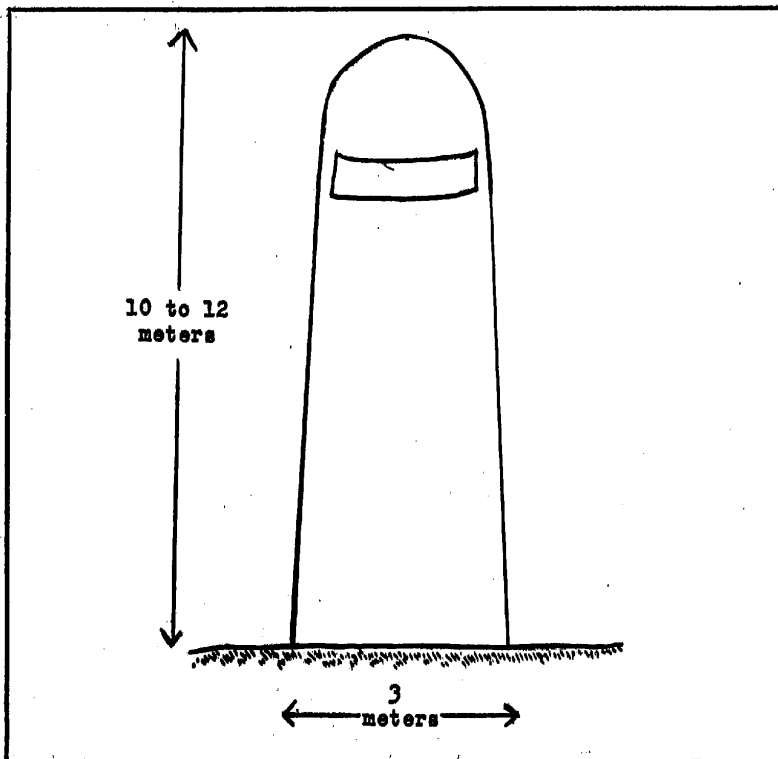
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Sketch No. 2: Radio Masts and Trailers with Masts



Sketch No. 3: Stone Observation Tower



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